

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3022
ANSWERED ON:03.08.2017
Converting Sea Water into Potable Water
Chowdhary Shri Pankaj

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated or proposes to formulate any policy to make sea water potable keeping in view the problem of shortage of drinking water in various States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether any plants have been set up to make sea water potable and if so, the utility of the same;
- (d) whether the Union Government also proposes to take any steps for converting impure water other than sea water into potable water; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a)&(b): Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Government of India has not formulated any policy to convert sea water into potable water due to problem of shortage of drinking water in the rural areas of the country. However, Rural Drinking Water is a State Subject and State Governments can take up sea water based desalination plants to convert sea water into potable water as powers to plan, sanction, implement, operate and maintain water supply projects including desalination plants are bestowed with the State Governments.

(c): As per reports available with the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the following sea water based desalination plants are operational in the country:

(i) 2 nos. of 100 Million Litres per Day (MLD) sea water desalination plants, one each at Minjur and Nemmeli, near Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

(ii) 3 nos. of low temperature thermal desalination (LTTD) plants of 1.0 lakh litre per day capacity, one each in the islands of Kavaratti, Agatti and Minicoy of Lakshadweep Islands.

In addition, the Standing Finance Committee (SFC) of the Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has already apprised and informed the Union Territory Administration of Lakshadweep to take necessary action for setting up of 6 nos. of 1.5 lakh litres per day capacity LTTD Plants one each in the islands of Androth, Amini, Chetlat, Kadamat, Kiltan and Kalpeni of Lakshadweep Islands.

(d) & (e): As per the revised Guidelines of the National Water Quality Sub-Mission on Arsenic and Fluoride, the affected States can consider setting up of community water purification plants for converting impure / contaminated water into potable water.